

✓ Please cancel claim 7.

✓ Please cancel claim 8.

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9. The electroactive bender actuator of claim 1 wherein only the outer edges of said electrodes and said electroactive layer are coated.

10. An electroactive bender actuator, comprising:

a pair of spaced electrode layers having a plurality of outer edge surfaces, at least one of the outer edge surfaces of both of the electrode layers [that are] generally aligned to lie in a common plane; and

an electroactive layer disposed at least in part between and coupled with said electrode layers and having a plurality of outer edge surfaces at least one of which is also generally aligned to lie in the common plane; and

an insulating coating covering the outer edge surfaces of said electroactive and electrode layers which lie in the common plane.

✓ Please cancel claim 11.

12. The electroactive bender actuator of claim 10 wherein said coating covers the entire outer surface of said actuator.

13. The electroactive bender actuator of claim 10 wherein said coating is silicon impregnated with aluminum oxide.

14. The electroactive bender actuator of claim 10 wherein said coating is phosphate glass filled with chromium carbide.